Claims

1. An information storage device including first communication means and second communication means for executing, at one and the same time, only one of a first process being performed in response to a process request command received from the first communication means and a second process being performed in response to a process request command received from the second communication means, comprising:

processing means executing the first process and the second process; and

status change means giving a response, in terms of a current execution status of a process of the processing means, when the status change means receives a check request command for inquiring a condition of the process of the processing means through the second communication means, the status change means sending the processing means an instruction to change the process of the processing means to the second process if the processing means is not engaging in execution of the first process when the status change means receives a change request command for giving an instruction to change the process of the processing means to the second process through the second communication means.

2.   The information storage device according to claim
1, wherein the status change means gives a response
indicating that the process of the processing means can
be changed to the second process, to the check request
command, if the processing means is not engaging in
execution of the first process currently.

3.   The information storage device according to claim
1 or 2,

wherein the first communication means is
communication means for performing contactless
communication, and

wherein the second communication means is
communication means for performing contact
communication.

4.   The information storage device according to claim
1 or 2,

wherein the first communication means is
communication means for performing contact
communication, and

wherein the second communication means is
communication means for performing contactless
communication.

5.   An information processing apparatus for performing communication with an information storage device through second communication means, the information storage device including first communication means and the second communication means for executing, at one and the same time, only one of a first process being performed in response to a process request command received from the first communication means and a second process being performed in response to a process request command received from the second communication means, comprising:

control means controlling a processing request for the second process of the information storage device; and

information storage device supervision means sending the information storage device a check request command for inquiring a condition of a process of the information storage device, and sending the information storage device a change request command for giving an instruction to change the process of the information storage device to the second process when the information storage device supervision means concludes, based on a response to the check request command, that a status of the information storage device can be changed to a status

for executing the second process.

6.   The information processing apparatus according to claim 5,

wherein the first communication means is communication means for performing contactless communication, and

wherein the second communication means is communication means for performing contact communication.

7.   The information processing apparatus according to claim 5,

wherein the first communication means is communication means for performing contact communication, and

wherein the second communication means is communication means for performing contactless communication.

8.   The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, 6 or 7, wherein the information storage device supervision means transmits the check request command repetitively to the information storage device.

9. The information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein, when there is a response indicating impossibility of change to the check request command from the information storage device a predetermined consecutive number of times after there is a response indicating possibility of change to the check request command from the information storage device, the information storage device supervision means concludes that the information storage device is engaging in execution of the first process, so as not to transmit the change request command to the information storage device.

10. The information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein, when there is a response indicating possibility of change to the check request command from the information storage device a predetermined consecutive number of times, the information storage device supervision means concludes that a status of the information storage device can be changed to a status for executing the second process, so as to transmit the change request command to the information storage device.